

10/539284  
JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JUN 2005**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-18 as filed without prejudice. Please add new claims 19-29 as shown below in the List of Claims.

**List of Claims**

- 1-18. Cancelled.
19. (New) Coated peroxygen particles having a delayed release of active oxygen into an aqueous phase, each particle comprising a core, an innermost shell layer and an outer shell layer surrounding said core, wherein:
- a) said core comprises said peroxygen compound;
  - b) said innermost shell layer makes up 2-20 wt% of said coated particle and comprises at least one hydrate-forming inorganic salt;
  - c) said outer shell layer comprises an alkali metal silicate present at 0.2 to 3 wt% of said coated particle and with a modulus of  $\text{SiO}_2$  to  $\text{M}_2\text{O}$  of greater than 2.5, wherein M is an alkali metal, and wherein said outer layer has been prepared using an aqueous solution comprising 2-20 wt% alkali metal silicate.
20. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said aqueous solution used to prepare said outer shell layer comprises a modulus of  $\text{SiO}_2$  to  $\text{M}_2\text{O}$  in the range of from 3 to 5 and a concentration of alkali metal silicate in the range of from 3 to 15 wt%.
21. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said aqueous solution used to prepare said outer shell layer comprises 2 to 20 wt% sodium silicate.
22. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said alkali metal silicate in said outer shell layer comprises 0.3 to less than 1 wt% of said coated particle, and the time needed to dissolve 95% of said coated particles in water at 15°C and a concentration of 2 g/l is longer than 5 minutes.
23. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said innermost shell layer comprises one or more salts from the group consisting of: alkali metal sulfates; alkali metal

carbonates; alkali metal bicarbonates; alkali metal borates; and alkali metal perborates.

24. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said innermost shell layer consists essentially of sodium sulfate and said outer shell layer on top of said innermost shell layer consists essentially of sodium silicates with a modulus in the range from 3 to 5.
25. (New) The coated particles of claim 24, wherein said innermost shell layer comprises 2 to 10 wt% sodium sulfate and said outer shell layer comprises 0.3 to less than 1 wt% sodium silicates, in each case based on the total weight of said coated particle.
26. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein each particle comprises one or more additional shell layers on said outer shell layer.
27. (New) The coated particles of claim 26, wherein each particle comprises an outermost layer of a finely divided inorganic or organic free-flowing auxiliary substance.
28. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein the average particle diameter is in the range from 0.5 to 1 mm with substantially no particles smaller than 0.2 mm.
29. (New) The coated particles of claim 28, wherein said particles have a  $D_{10}$  value of at least 0.35 mm.
30. (New) The coated particles of claim 28, wherein the fraction of particles with a diameter smaller than 0.4 mm is less than 10 wt%.
31. (New) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said peroxygen compound is sodium percarbonate.
32. (New) A process for the preparation of the coated peroxygen particles of claim 31, comprising:

- a) spraying said aqueous solution comprising 2-20% alkali metal silicate onto sodium percarbonate particles comprising said core and said innermost shell layer;
  - b) simultaneously or subsequently evaporating water from the particles sprayed in step a) to form said outer shell layer.
33. (New) The process of claim 32, wherein said alkali metal silicate solution is a sodium water-glass solution.
34. (New) The process of claim 32 wherein:
- a) said innermost layer is applied to said core, wherein said core comprises said sodium percarbonate and said innermost layer comprises 3 to 10 wt% of sodium sulfate, calculated as the hydrate-free form and based on the coated sodium percarbonate particle; and
  - b) a sodium water-glass solution substantially comprising sodium silicate with a modulus in the range from 3 to 5 and with a concentration of sodium silicate in the range from 5 to 10 wt% is applied to said sodium percarbonate particles by spraying, said spraying being ended after application of 0.2 to 3 wt% sodium silicate.
35. (New) A process for the preparation of the coated peroxygen particles of claim 31, comprising: applying said outer layer by fluidized bed coating particles having at least one innermost shell layer.
36. (New) The process according to claim 32, wherein sodium percarbonate coated with an innermost layer of at least one hydratable salt and an outer layer of alkali metal silicates is brought into contact with a pulverulent inorganic free-flowing auxiliary substance in an effective amount.
37. (New) The coated particle of claim 27, wherein said free-flowing auxiliary substance is selected from the group consisting of: precipitated silica; pyrogenic silica; aluminium oxide; titanium dioxide; aluminium silicate; and montmorillonite.

38. (New) A detergent composition with a delayed release of active oxygen into an aqueous phase, comprising the coated sodium percarbonate particles of claim 31.
39. (New) The detergent composition of claim 38, wherein said coated sodium percarbonate particles comprise 5 to 50 wt% of the composition.